IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for use as an external stabilizer of a heart base comprising a strip of biocompatible, implantable material ~~having a predetermined size adapted for external application to the heart base~~ comprising a top edge and a bottom edge, the width from the top edge to the bottom edge being about 2 and 5 cms, wherein the device is used to prevent basal dilation during all cardiac phases.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising ~~a top edge, a bottom edge and~~ a center portion.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the distance between the outside of the top edge and the outside of the bottom edge is between 2 and 5 cms.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the center portion ~~further~~ comprises an open mesh.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the open mesh further comprises opening sizes between 2 mm to 2 cm, when measured along the longest axis.

6. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the top and bottom edge further

comprise a metal.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the center portion ~~further~~ comprises a polyester mesh.

8. (Original) The device of claim 2, further comprising attachment means.

9. (Original) The device of claim 2, further comprising attachment members.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein the attachment members further comprise eyelets.

11. (Original) A method for treating heart disorders comprising epicardial placement of a device according to claim 1 around the base of the heart.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the device is placed ~~in~~ at about the atrio-ventricular ~~groove~~ junction.

13. (New) A device, comprising

a strip of a biocompatible material comprising a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, the distance from the top edge to the bottom edge being between about 2 cm and 5 cm; and

an extension member of the strip that extends from an edge of the strip such that when the strip is placed on the atrio-ventricular groove of a heart the extension member supports the ventricular myocardium.

14. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the biocompatible material is selected from the group consisting of polyester, polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene, Teflon felt, stainless steel, polyglycolic acid, collagen, elastin, and any combination thereof.

15. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the biocompatible material comprises collagen and elastin.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the collagen is cross-linked collagen.

17. (New) The device of claim 15, wherein the collagen is cross-linked collagen.

18. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the strip further comprises an inflatable chamber located between the top edge and bottom edge.

19. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the strip further comprises epicardial bi-ventricular pacing electrodes.

20. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the biocompatible material is a mesh.

21. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the biocompatible material is a mesh.

22. (New) The device of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of eyelets, anchor points and/or loops on the top edge and/or the bottom edge.

23. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the biocompatible material comprises a biodegradable material.

24. (New) The device of claim 13, further comprising carbon fiber tubing at the top edge and/or bottom edge.

25. (New) The device of claim 24, wherein the carbon fiber tubing comprises a plurality of eyelets.

26. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the center portion further comprises an open mesh.

27. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the open mesh further comprises opening sizes between 2 mm to 2 cm, when measured along the longest axis.

28. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the top and bottom edge comprise a metal.

29. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein a portion between the top edge and bottom edge further comprises a polyester mesh.

30. (New) The device of claim 13, further comprising means for attaching the device to the heart.

31. (New) The device of claim 30, wherein the means comprise attachment members.

32. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the extension member is attached to the strip.

33. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the extension member is contiguous with the strip.

34. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the extension member serves to reinforce an area of myocardium when the device is placed at the base of the heart.

35. (New) A method of treating valve regurgitation in a subject, comprising implanting a device of claim 1 radially along the atrio-ventricular junction of the heart.

36. (New) A method of treating mitral and/or tricuspid valve regurgitation in a heart comprising constricting the heart at about the atrio-ventricular junction with an epicardial device.